

Julie L. Jones
Executive Director

2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0500
www.flhsmv.gov



Rick Scott
Governor

Pam Bondi
Attorney General

Jeff Atwater
Chief Financial Officer

Adam Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 1, 2012

CONTACT: KIRSTEN OLSEN-DOOLAN
(850) 617-3102

MOTORCYCLE RIDERS OF ALL AGES SHOULD THINK ABOUT SAFETY

~ Statistics show fatalities rise for older riders ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Increasingly, Americans over age 45 are climbing on motorcycles. However, national data showing a surge in fatalities in motorcycle drivers in that age group indicate all riders need to be vigilant about safety. In Florida, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' statistics show 44 percent of motorcycle drivers killed in crashes in 2010 were age 45 or older. DHSMV joins Gov. Rick Scott in proclaiming May [Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month](#) in Florida to highlight the importance of the public safety issue.

"In 2008, Florida lawmakers passed a law that requires training before getting a motorcycle endorsement on a driver license. Since then, we have seen the number of motorcycle crashes fall every year," said DHSMV Executive Director Julie L. Jones. "Motorcycle riding is an activity that can be enjoyable for a lifetime, and all riders should get endorsed and take steps to ride safely."

Florida law requires a rider to have a motorcycle endorsement on his or her driver license. A rider must successfully complete a basic rider course through the [Florida Rider Training Program](#) to apply for the endorsement.

Florida law requires the following for motorcycle drivers:

- Helmet (mandatory for riders age 20 or younger and for riders not covered by an insurance policy providing for at least \$10,000 in medical benefits for injuries incurred as a result of a crash while operating or riding on a motorcycle)
- Eye protection (a windscreen on a motorcycle does not qualify as eye protection)
- Foot pegs for passengers

Riders can take additional protective measures by wearing:

- Proper footwear (protects feet and ankles by giving you a good grip on road surfaces)
- Gloves (keep hands comfortable and protected)
- Jacket and pants (provides protection against sunburn, windburn, dehydration and abrasions)

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV, visit www.flhsmv.gov, or on our [Facebook](#) page, or follow us on Twitter at [@FDHSMV](#).

###